

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 15, 2005. Claims 5 and 11-22 have been canceled. New claims 23-24 have been added. Subject matter of claim 5 has been added to claim 1. Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 23-24 are now pending.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Izumi in view of Sumino. This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires that "the color filters are arranged at a predetermined pitch px in a row direction and at another predetermined pitch py in a column direction, respectively, and wherein the spacers include a spacer set consisting of five spacers with no other spacers therebetween, wherein the spacer set of five spacers consists of a first pair of spacers, a second pair of spacers, and a central spacer, the spacers of the first pair being separated from each other by a distance of m · px (where m is an integer equal to or greater than 2 but is not a multiple of 3) in the row direction, the spacers of the second pair being separated from the spacers of the first pair by a distance of n · py (where n is a positive integer and a multiple of 2) in the column direction, the central spacer being separated from the spacers of the first pair by a distance of m · px/2 in the row direction and by a distance of n · py/2 in the column direction, respectively."

For example and without limitation, Fig. 1 of the instant application illustrates that the spacers (2R, 2B, 2G) include a spacer set consisting of five spacers (see dotted outline in Fig. 1 for example) with no other spacers therebetween, and where the spacer set of five spacers consists of a first pair of spacers, a second pair of spacers, and a central spacer, the spacers of the first pair being separated from each other by a distance of $m \cdot px$ (where m is an integer equal to or greater than 2 but is not a multiple of 3 – $m=2$ in Fig. 1) in the row direction, the spacers of

the second pair being separated from the spacers of the first pair by a distance of $n \cdot py$ (where n is a positive integer and a multiple of $2 - n=4$ in Fig. 1) in the column direction. Fig. 1 also illustrates the central spacer being separated from the spacers of the first pair by a distance of $m \cdot px/2$ in the row direction and by a distance of $n \cdot py/2$ in the column direction, respectively. Thus, it will be appreciated that claim 1 has been amended to incorporate subject matter of claim 5 and also to clarify that no other spacers are provided between the five spacers of the claimed spacer set. E.g., see Fig. 1 and paragraphs [0064] to [0066] of the instant specification.

Izumi and Sumino fail to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined features of claim 1. The spacers 7 in Fig. 5 of Izumi clearly cannot meet the aforesaid underlined features of claim 1, because the spacers 7 in Fig. 5 of Izumi are provided between every pair of adjacent color filters. Thus, in Izumi there can be no spacer set consisting of five spacers with *no other spacers therebetween*, where the spacer set of five spacers consists of a first pair of spacers, a second pair of spacers, and a central spacer. Moreover, Izumi cannot possibly disclose that the spacers of a first pair in the set are separated from each other by a distance of $m \cdot px$ (where *m is an integer equal to or greater than 2 but is not a multiple of 3*) in the row direction. Furthermore, Izumi also cannot possibly be said to disclose that the spacers of a second pair of the set are separated from the spacers of the first pair by a distance of $n \cdot py$ (where *n is a positive integer and a multiple of 2*) in the column direction as called for in claim 1. Finally, Izumi also fails to disclose or suggest that the central spacer of a set is separated from the spacers of the first pair by a distance of $m \cdot px/2$ in the row direction and by a distance of $n \cdot py/2$ in the column direction, respectively, as called for in claim 1. Izumi cannot disclose or suggest these features because in Fig. 5 of Izumi there is a spacer 7 between all adjacent pairs of color filters 4.

Sumino also fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined features of claim 1. For instance, Sumino cannot possibly disclose that the spacers of a first pair in the set are separated from each other by a distance of $m \cdot px$ (where *m* is an integer equal to or greater than 2 but is not a multiple of 3) in the row direction. Furthermore, Sumino also cannot possibly be said to disclose that the spacers of a second pair of the set are separated from the spacers of the first pair by a distance of $n \cdot py$ (where *n* is a positive integer and a multiple of 2) in the column direction as called for in claim 1.

Thus, even the alleged combination of Izumi and Sumino (which applicant believes would be incorrect in any event) fails to meet the invention of claim 1. Citation to Shibahara cannot cure the aforesaid flaws of Izumi and Sumino.

Claim 23 requires that “the spacers include a *spacer set consisting of five spacers with no other spacers therebetween*, wherein the spacer set of five spacers consists of a first pair of spacers, a second pair of spacers, and a central spacer, the spacers of the first pair being separated from each other by a distance of $m \cdot px$ (where *m* is an integer equal to or greater than 2 but is not a multiple of 3) in the row direction, the spacers of the second pair being separated from the spacers of the first pair by a distance of $n \cdot py$ (where *n* is a positive integer and a multiple of 2) in the column direction, the *central spacer being located at a central location between the first and second pairs of spacers and being located approximately the same distance from each of the four other spacers of the spacer set*.” For example, see Fig. 2 of the instant application. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 23, either alone or in the alleged combination.

Claim 24 requires that “the spacers include a *spacer set consisting of first, second and third spacers*, wherein the first, second and third spacers of the spacer set are located adjacent

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and define a triangle around the first color filter of the pixel, but not around any part of the second and third color filters of the pixel." For example, see Fig. 3 of the instant application.

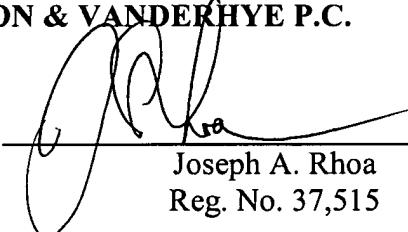
The cited art fails to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 24 in this regard, either alone or in the alleged combination.

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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